

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE
DECEMBER 14, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Present: Members - Rob Knight, Tim Pifer, Ron Klemarczyk, David Shore, Beth Fenstermacher, Audra Klumb, Rob Talmadge, Greg Mannesto and Fran Philippe. Visitors - Leslie Talmadge, Anne Gwynne and Hilary Warner

Before the meeting began, Rob K welcomed Hilary Warner who works on the Bow trails committee. She was visiting to learn more about what we do and hopes that in the future some Bow and Concord trails might connect. She shared the new Knox and School Forests Trail Map and a sample of their signs.

1. November meeting minutes approved with two changes to be corrected by Beth.
2. Trail Subcommittee Goals
Review of progress on the 2016-17 Trails Sub-Committee Goals (to be shared with the Conservation Commission)

<u>Completion</u>	<u>Goal</u>
100%	1. Create a Broken Ground trail system (321 volunteer hours)
100%	2. Complete the Swope Park to Winant Park Connector Trail (98 volunteer hours)
25%	3. Plan a Rum Hill to Winant Park Trail (320 volunteer hours spent to build a 90-foot boardwalk over a wetland in the Rum Hill/King St. area) The pros and cons of going forward with official city trails in the neighborhood were discussed. Local input will be sought and this will be continued next year.
50%	4. Have a active steward for every trail and check and maintain every trail at least once per year.
200%	5. Organize 1-2 community trail walks, partnering with local organizations as appropriate. (Hikes: the Broken Ground Trails opening, the Swope to Carter Hill Connector with 5 Rivers. Community walks: Riley Trails, Oak Hill and Contoocook River Park)
25%	6. Better inform trail users of allowed trail uses and restrictions through signage and the trail guide. (the website has been updated)
60%	7. Update the trail guide, adding missing text and trail maps. (Many updates have been submitted but due to lack of time and manpower, they not all have been entered.)
0%	8. Treat all boardwalks to increase lifespan. (Not budgeted)
0%	9. Work on a signage plan for the City trail system to clarify way-finding. (Not budgeted)
0%	10. Develop a guide for Trail Stewards to clarify expectations and promote consistency in their trail work.

Suggestions for 2017 goals:

- Be more proactive checking with trail stewards for progress on their trails.
- Continue with community trail walks
- Trail signage
- Complete trail guide update
- Treat boardwalks

- Develop a Trail Steward Guide
- Reblazing
- Swope sidecut repairs
- Oak Hill rock removal

Rob K requested that more ideas be brought to the next meeting.

3. 2017 Budget items for Trails Sub-committee (will be approved by the Conservation Commission in January)
 - tool purchases
 - Ron's projects
 - boardwalk treatment materials
 - blazing paint
 - repair of boardwalk over wet area on West End Farm Trail off of Exit 3 (possible cost-sharing with the state?)
 - begin signage upgrade focusing on the Broken Ground trails, the West End Farm Trail and connectors and Oak Hill replacements plus new trails
 - trailhead signs for ones that don't have them - which ones?

Sign discussion: reported by Hilary Warner - Bow used Advantage Signs, King Core @ \$55 per square foot (6" x 24") including the routing. She recommends rounded corners. Beth has applied for a \$1500 grant to increase walkability of trails. Tim suggested the Department of Corrections Sign Shop for smaller silk-screened plastic signs along trails.

4. Community Trail Walks

The November community walk had one attendee (Hilary)

The December community walk had eight attendees (2 from Trails Committee)

Fran will lead a Broken Ground community walk at 10am on Saturday, January 14. If conditions are appropriate, Rob Talmadge will lead a snowshoe hike on the District 5 Rd to Carter Hill Connector.

Rob K reported on many positive comments about the two newest trails and shared a note from the trail runners in appreciation of Concord's trail system.

5. Trail Construction Updates

The Swipe Park to Winant Park Connector is complete.

Ron will remove the multiflora rose bush near the Winant parking lot, fill the hole and move the start of the Connector Trail so that it doesn't begin in front of the cars.

Having a map that shows all of the trails from Winant Park to the Farm Trails was discussed. Due to the potential size of such a map, it was suggested that a bar code be included on kiosks for access to said map.

A future loop from the new Connector trail around to Winant Park was discussed and will be readdressed after the Open Space Plan is updated.

6. Trail Committee T-shirts

There will be a one-time \$50 screening cost and a minimum order of twelve. Tim will report more next month.

7. Trail Maintenance and Reporting

Ron will take down leaning trees on Riley and Batchelder Mill trails

Fran reported that the signs at the white/orange/yellow junction in the Broken Ground have been removed. They will be replaced at some point.

Fran reported that because a good number of folks have stopped at his house to ask directions, Fred Sprague of Curtisville Rd requested that a sign be put up at the Curtisville Roads junction in front of his house directing drivers to the new trailhead parking.

Audra reported that the party debris on the O'Reilly-Fleetham trail has been cleaned up.

8. Trail Guide Updates discussed in item 2.a.

9. Consensus was that trails not maintained by the city but used by neighborhoods should just be left alone and not be included on city trail maps.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 11, 2017 at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Philippe, Recording Secretary pro tem